

The Madisonian—Prospectus, 1840.

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The Madisonian supports in good faith, and with all its ability and energy, the nominations of the Harrisburg Convention, viz:

For President, WM. HENRY HARRISON, of Ohio.

For Vice President, JOHN TYLER, of Virginia.

Some of the reasons upon which its “uncompromising hostility to the re-election of Martin Van Buren” on the one hand, and its preference for General Harrison on the other, are founded, will be briefly set forth and contrasted as follows, to wit:

It opposes the re-election of Martin Van Buren, because

1. No Chief Magistrate of this Union should remain in office more than ONE TERM.
2. Every prominent act of his administration has not only hampered the interests and prosperity of the country, but has been an open violation of the principles and professions of the Republican party.
3. The tendency of federal action under his administration is to absorb the powers of the State Governments, and to erect at Washington a despotic system of Centralism and Consolidation.
4. He is the instrument of a party, and not the President of the Union.
5. He is inaccessible to the people—indifferent to their wants and interests—contemns their will, by refusing to acquiesce in decisions of the majority—is selfish in his views, and sectional and partial in his action—entertains an estimate of human nature so low that it is degrading for an upright citizen to accept an office at his hands—acting upon the principle that the people are corrupt, and that every man has his price, bringing the patronage of his office in conflict with the freedom of their elections—assuming complete power over the people for himself, and disclaiming any duty in their behalf as incumbent on him in return.
- 6 He wants the whole moneyed power of the United States vested in him and under his control.

7. He will not agree that the patronage and power of the federal executive, now exercised by him, shall be either lessened or regulated by law.
8. He wishes the States to surrender their right to the moneys arising from the sales of the public lands.
9. He has subverted the course of legislation, by making laws originate with him and a partizan Senate; whereas they should originate in the House of Representatives.
10. He recommends a national bankrupt law, applicable only to corporations, so that he should possess an absolute control over all the State institutions, and be able to crush them all at pleasure.
11. He wants an Executive Bank, and power to resort to the exploded and ruinous practice of depreciated Government paper money.
12. The tendency of his recommendations is to destroy the *credit system* of the country, to hamper its commerce, to lessen its trade, and to depreciate its labor.
13. He has been in office three years, received \$75,000 of the public money, and has accomplished little else than running the ship of State off the republican tack.
14. He rests the merit of his administration upon one expedient, which he has failed to carry, and permits one paltry question which involves a miserable warfare against the State Banks to engage his whole mind and occupy his time, proving him to be contracted in his views, and incapable of the comprehensive and magnanimous policy of a statesman.
15. He has never originated or carried through any legislative body, any law or measure, worthy of an eminent statesman.
16. He has done nothing at any time worthy of the gratitude of the people, nor to entitle him to ask them to overlook the pledges of his predecessor, and give him the office of resident for two successive terms.
17. He appoints "rogues and royalists" to office, who steal and squander the public money.
18. Considering the prospects of war, and the various foreign, and domestic relations and future hopes of the country, Mr. Van Buren, who, we infer from his conduct, is wanting, either in integrity or capacity, is not the man for the crisis.

It advocates the election of **General Harrison**, because

1. He is pledged to serve, if elected, but ONE TERM.
2. Every prominent act of his life proves him to be a friend and servant of his country, and a sterling Democratic Republican in theory and practice.
3. He would confine the action of the Federal Government to its own appropriate sphere, check its monarchical tendencies, and maintain the balance of the Constitution.
4. He would be the President of the MANY, and not the agent of the FEW.
5. He is one of the People, and for the People. He sympathizes with their wants, and understands their interests. He agrees that acquiescence in the decisions of the majority is the vital principle of Republics—he would exercise “a jealous care of the right of election by the people”—and impart “equal and exact justice to all men” and all sections. It is regarded as an evidence of his belonging to the people, that their enemies call him in derision “ **The log cabin Candidate**” and “ **The Poor Man's President.**”
6. He would have the public purse, *not* united with the sword, but kept in *safety* under the control of Congress as intended by the Constitution.
7. He agrees that Executive power has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished, and will give his disinterested efforts to remedy the evil.
8. He would preserve or apply the public lands, as a common fund in accordance with the compact, for the benefit of *all*, and not a part, of the States.
9. He would restore the constitutional and Republican course of legislation, act as the executor, not the originator of laws, and limit the veto power generally to cases of constitutional doubt.
10. He would, to use the language of Jefferson, “support the State governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns, and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies.”
11. He would not seek an Executive Bank, nor renew the exploded system of Government paper money.

12. He is the friend of labor, of commerce, and of trade, and the advocate of a sound and uniform constitutional currency.

13. He has spent forty years of faithful toil in the People's service, which he begun in youth and affluence, and ended in poverty without reproach.

14. He would bring to the administration of the Government an enlightened mind, comprehensive views, a magnanimous policy and an honest heart, and rest the merits of his administration upon the degree of good accomplished for the greatest number

15. He is the father of the beneficent land system of the West, and the author of numerous laws and treaties worthy of an eminent statesman and diplomatist.

16. His life is a history of the West—and for his pre-eminent and self-sacrificing services as a soldier, as a Territorial Secretary, as a Delegate, Representative and Senator in Congress, as a Governor, as a General, a hero, a diplomatist, a statesman, a scholar, an honest man and patriot, he deserves the gratitude of his countrymen.

17. He would reform and purify the departments of government, appoint honest and capable men to office, and stop the leaks in the Treasury.

18. In view of the great importance of the crisis, Gen. Harrison is THE MAN, reserved and qualified, as it would seem, by Providence, for the occasion, to fulfil the high hope and destiny of the country.

Thus every man in the Opposition may give the reasons of the faith that is in him. Thus have we a righteous cause, and unimpeachable candidates. But an active, wily and corrupt party, armed with the power and patronage of the government, and led on and defended by a pensioned press and swarms of interested partizans, struggle desperately against us. We have the means of beating them. Mr. Van Buren is already in a minority of the whole people of the Union, as the returns of the last federal elections show. We can increase the majority against him. We can meet and repel the attacks of our enemies—refute their misrepresentations, and expose their falsehoods and calumnies. Give free circulation to the truth, and a virtuous and discerning democracy will acclaim a triumph for liberty and the Farmer of North Bend.

The Madisonian is recommended by the Whigs and Conservatives in Congress, to the support of the friends of the Harrisburg nominations throughout the United States. (See another page.)

P. S. Those to whom this Prospectus is addressed, will please enclose it and the money for subscriptions to the gentleman who may forward it, with as little delay as possible, consistent with the time necessary to obtain subscribers in the different towns. A Certificate of Deposit payable to order, would be a good mode of remittance.

TERMS.

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THOMAS ALLEN, Editor and Proprietor.

Washington, January, 1840.

[???] From the Postmaster General. —“A postmaster may enclose money in a letter to the publisher of a Newspaper to pay the subscription of a third person, and frank the letter, if written by himself.”

WASHINGTON, January 24, 1840.

Sir: —the undersigned, an Executive Committee, appointed by the Opposition Members of Congress, have taken the liberty of appointing you an Executive and Corresponding Committee for your County, and we have the honor of enclosing a prospectus for the *Madisonian*. We recommend that paper to the confidence and support of the opponents of the Administration throughout the country. The Committee attach much importance, to a general circulation of the “*Madisonian*,” and other political pamphlets, calculated to enlighten the public mind. The subscribers which you may procure (and we doubt not considering the cheapness and ability of the paper they will be many,) will be entitled, gratis, to all such pamphlets.

We have confidence, that it will afford you pleasure, to aid us, in our efforts to rescue the administration of the Government from the hands of the present imbecile and corrupt incumbents. With the aid of an honest and fearless press, these efforts, we trust, will be successful. We are aware that the acceptance of this appointment may subject you to some sacrifices: your patriotism is a

sufficient guaranty that they will be borne with cheerfulness. The consideration, that we are in the service of an injured and crushed people, should animate us in the use of every honorable exertion, to effect the common object in view, the restoration of the Government to the days of her patriot Presidents.

Very respectfully, Your obedient servants,

Committee.

R. GARLAND, La.

JNO. BELL, Tenn.

J. M. BOTTS, Va.

THOS. CORWIN, Ohio.

M. H. GRINNELL, N. Y.

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Opposition Committee Feb. 1st, 40.

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